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May 30th, 1963.

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Sir,

My submission is not to do with means of raising money via taxation — rather to save money so that the need for added tax burdens can be forgotten.

We, in Canada, especially Ontario, have got stupid on our outlook on education. We spend many millions building schools that are just oversize playgrounds for the pupils; then we use them about half of the year, yet we pay the teaching staffs for a full year. Would a business firm build a million dollar factory then have it idle as long as we do our schools? I think not. We canadians have become a bunch of stupid morons in many respects. We tax people who have no children attending school, forcing a hardship on them in order that a lot, a "very big lot of children", spend more years in school than they do earning a living. It seems to be the fashion now to educate people until they are old enough to retire or go on welfare. At present, a person can't get a job if he's over 35 and we keep them in school till they are 20 to 25, so they have ten years to make or break themselves. Then we keep girls in schools learning how to work after they are married, not at housework as wives, but as office workers doing a man out of a job. Then we rave about young people going to the dogs. We should blame ourselves for we keep them in school a few hours a day then turn them loose with the biggest part of the day left to get into trouble and without cash in their pockets, what happens? All you have to do is check on the birthrate of school girls to find out school is a prime breeder of sex adventure. In spite of things like this, you are looking for more money for more schools to bankrupt more people who have raised a family and must now pay the lion's share of raising the mess we have to-day. Why not increase the hours per day of schooling for the older grades so that they can be of use to Canada years ahead of what they are today. Keep them in school and out of jail. Keep the girls out of trouble by putting at least two hours more per day on their schooling and devote it to learning the art of housekeeping so that at least their marriage will have a 50/50 chance of being successful. Now, Sir, if you must have more money, how about a double pay tax for every home where the wife works as well as the husband. Tax them at least 60% of the wife's pay. It costs us at least that much to educate their children and we have no pay in a lot of cases except old age or service pension.

Then, there's the upkeep of schools. How much can be saved on upkeep if the schools are used regular. In Windsor alone, vandalism in schools approaches the serious side. Why? Because they are empty most of the time and children with nothing to do get into trouble. So, Sir, instead of looking for means of raising more money, look for ways and means of getting full value for what we now pay. Just one simple question, Sir — is it any wonder Russia is forging ahead of the Western powers? Their people know that to be any good in this world you have to pull your weight and we, in Canada, are not. So the answer, use the schools at least two hours more per day, cut holidays to three weeks per year, give the smart students an education in half the time it takes now, don't try to stuff an education in a head that can't take it and, if parents don't like this method of keeping their kids out of jail, then let them pay the extra taxes involved. Isn't it a fact, Sir, that when over a hundred dollars a year of tax money on an ordinary home goes for school taxes, it gets past the stupid stage. Also it's a prime factor in a poor economy for multiplying this by the millions of times it happens and we are robbing Peter to pay Paul.

Sincerely yours for common sense in education,

G. Hornsey,
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La Salle, Ontario.